

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE CHESTER-WALLINGFORD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Chester-Wallingford chapter of the American Red Cross. The third oldest Red Cross chapter in the United States, this organization will, in 1998, celebrate 100 years of continuous service to the community.

With 400 volunteers and 4 staff members, the Chester-Wallingford Chapter carries out the Red Cross's mission of "providing relief to victims of disasters and helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies." Following disasters, the Red Cross supplies victims with groceries, clothing, temporary housing, transportation, and medicine. Blood drives are another important initiative. Every 2 seconds, somebody needs a blood transfusion. The Chester-Wallingford chapter proudly helps satisfy this need by providing thousands of gallons of blood to area hospitals. As members of our Nation's Armed Forces serve overseas, the Red Cross facilitates communication between the soldiers and their families. Other public services provided by this organization include first aid, CPR, and swimming lessons.

The Chester-Wallingford chapter has helped soldiers and veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm in times of need. The Red Cross has provided financial assistance to servicemen and servicewomen for emergency travel, health needs, and in some cases, burial assistance. Likewise, dedicated workers and volunteers have helped many veterans settle benefit claims. Finally, the Chester-Wallingford chapter has provided numerous supportive services to patients in VA hospitals.

Mr. President, I commend the Chester-Wallingford chapter of the American Red Cross for its commitment to the people of southeastern Pennsylvania. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to the staff and volunteers as they prepare to celebrate the chapter's centennial.●

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY GALA

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today, I rise to commemorate the people of the Capital Area Transportation Authority [CATA] on the opening of the new CATA Transportation Center in Lansing, MI. Such an undertaking is the result many individuals in the community having dedicated a great portion of their time and talent toward seeing this idea become a reality. I, along with the citizens of Lansing and the surrounding communities, join in thanks for the work of CATA in offering such a tremendous public transportation service and for the ensuing impact on the quality of life for citizens in the surrounding areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Senate colleagues for their support of my request for earmarked funding for the CATA Transportation Center. In 1996, our request for \$3 million in funding was granted and, in the following year, another earmark for \$1.2 million also became a reality.

Mr. President, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, allow me to give a heartfelt thanks to those at CATA for their hard work and dedication toward making the great State of Michigan even greater.●

RECOGNIZING STONE AND THOMAS AS AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in order to recognize Stone & Thomas, an outstanding business, for its continuous service to its customers and to the State of West Virginia. Stone & Thomas has been known for its commitment to customer service since 1847. That is 16 years longer than West Virginia has been a State.

This year, Stone & Thomas celebrated 150 years in business, and its longevity is a testament to the quality of service and merchandise which they are committed to.

Mr. President, since its founding in 1847 by Jacob Thomas and Elijah Stone, this remarkable business has been owned and operated by five generations of the same family. Currently, Stone & Thomas is run by W.S. Jones, the president, chief executive officer and the great-great-grandson of Elijah Stone. Mr. Jones, like the four generations before him, has continued the creed of outstanding service which Mr. Stone and Mr. Thomas pledged themselves to. Furthermore, Mr. Jones, like those before him, has continued to improve and expand upon an already exceptional business.

All told, Stone & Thomas has employed, and continues to employ, thousands of citizens of West Virginia. They are presently responsible for over 1,500 jobs in my State, as well as several hundred jobs in Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia. And just this week, Mr. President, they celebrated the opening of another customer-friendly store in Charleston, WV, which is expected to bring work to 70 more West Virginians.

Mr. President, Stone & Thomas has accomplished so much during its 150 years in business. Because of its diligent efforts to satisfy the customer it has grown to become West Virginia's largest independent retailer, as well as one of the top 100 in the Nation.

Because of their outstanding commitment to customer service; because of their longstanding record as a fair, honest, and friendly business; and because of their superior contributions to the economies of West Virginia and three other States, I pay special tribute to Stone & Thomas.●

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI TASK FORCE ONE

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the members of Missouri Task Force One, which this year achieved Federal designation as an FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, and in October received the Memorandum of Understanding that places them in deployable status.

What a great team. They don't call Missouri the "Show Me" State for nothing. Missouri Task Force One began as 1 of more than 150 applicants. They coordinated, cajoled, planned, "recruited"—a euphemism for the arm-twisting for which they've become famous—begged, borrowed, purchased, trained, and triumphed. What was only a dream 5 years ago became a reality this year.

This team, its members and equipment underwent a rigorous evaluation including a full-blown, onsite inspection from technical experts in search and rescue. They scored the highest in the Nation, and clobbered the competition. I know this may be a sore subject with some of my colleagues in the Senate, but the numbers do not lie.

Missouri Task Force One was head and shoulders above the next-highest applicant for new teams and scored ahead of already-designated teams as well. This is one of the most exciting, dedicated groups of volunteers I have ever seen. They earned this designation in every category evaluated, from the quality of the team members to their excellent equipment.

The country won when Missouri Task Force One achieved their designation. Some of us have learned the very hard way that disasters can happen any time, anywhere. I rest easier knowing that the Midwest now has access to the Federal search and rescue teams once concentrated on the east and west coasts. I am honored to have the privilege of getting to know some of the members of Missouri Task Force One, who take the time from their "day jobs" and their families to train, take risks, pack, unpack, and train some more; for a nightmare we all hope will never happen but for which we must be prepared.●

TROY COMMUNITY COALITION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute and express my heartfelt thanks to those who have made the Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse such a successful program. The hard work and dedication of the coalition's staff and volunteers was recently recognized by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America "Best Coalition" designation. This award recognizes drug abuse prevention organizations which have strong programs, substantive results, and community support.

The Troy Community Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to